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Mostly True: An Exploration of My Family History

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What is Creative Non-Fiction?

- Creative nonfiction is stories that are based on and rooted in fact, but are not necessarily 100% true.
- The creative portion of the nonfiction makes the stories read more like fictional pieces, meant to grab the readers attention.
- Creative nonfiction often requires historical research.

There is a quote in *Carousel* (that’s the pesky theatre major popping up) that goes, “as long as there’s one person on earth who remembers you — it isn’t over.” My aunt and uncle died in July and September of 2012. Then entire idea for writing this thesis started with a simple story about them — parts of which have been meshed into “The C Word.” My grandparents died sooner than that, but theirs were expected deaths. I like to think that I have said their names often enough — David Scott Berke, Rosalind Fay Berke, Millie Urban, Ralph John Urban, Jeanne Wyman, Claire Berke, Samuel Berke, Sidney Grinker, Ethel Winer Grinker, Sophie Berke, Toiv Berke — that they are not forgotten, not passed over. They are alive in our memories, even sometimes in our words and actions — something I am always pleased to see. Call it my version of the Mourner’s Kaddish if you will. As long as there are people who are willing to listen, there will always be stories to be told.